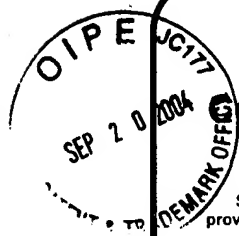


RCE/1758
JLW



**REQUEST
FOR**

**CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/339,826
Filing Date	June 25, 1999
First Named Inventor	Masuhiko NATSUHARA, et al.
Group Art Unit	1755
Examiner Name	K. Group
Attorney Docket Number	50395-028

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action of the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.1.03(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 500417.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) \$770.00
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other (additional claims, etc.)
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$____ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Arthur J. Steiner, Esq.	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	26,106
Signature		Date	9/20/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name(Print/Type)	
Signature	
Date	



Docket No.: 50395-028

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Masuhiko NATSUHARA, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 3109
	:	
Serial No.: 09/339,826	:	Group Art Unit: 1755
	:	
Filed: June 25, 1999	:	Examiner: Group, Karl E.
	:	
For: CERAMIC BASE MATERIAL	:	

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following Amendment and Remarks are submitted pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 in response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2004, together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) submitted concurrently herewith.